

The Sunday School.

LESSON FOR OCTOBER 3.

Paul's Last Journey to Jerusalem.—Acts 21:1-15.

Golden Text.—*I am ready, not to be bound only, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus.*—Acts 21:13.

Lesson Thought.—*We should surrender ourselves entirely to the will of God.*

MEANING OF THE TEXT.

1. *We.* Paul, Luke and probably Trophimus (v. 29) and Aristarchus (27:2.) *Them.* The Ephesian elders. *Coos.* A small island forty miles south of Miletus. *Rhodes.* An island fifty miles farther on. *Patata.* The seaport of Lycia.

2, 3. *Phoenicia.* A coastland country lying to the north of Palestine. Paul's objective point was Jerusalem. This ship went in the direction he wished to take. He was anxious to make time. He wanted to be at Jerusalem by Pentecost. The voyage was across the open sea a distance of 340 miles to Tyre. Here the ship unloaded her cargo.

4. *Disciples.* See Acts 11:19 and 15:3. *Who said* Thro some prophet. Here as well as at Caesarea Paul was warned of the danger of going to Jerusalem.

5. *Prayed.* The disciples here express deep sympathy for Paul.

6, 8. The sea voyage ended at Ptolemais. From here the apostle and his companions walked to Caesarea, a distance of forty miles. This was Paul's third visit to this city. See Acts 9:30 and 18:22. *Philip.* This Philip was one of the Jerusalem deacons (6:5) and a most noted preacher of the gospel. He preached the gospel in Samaria, (8:5,) to the Eunuch, (8:26,) in the cities along the coast from Azotus to Caesarea, (8:40.) *Evangelist.* The term is an official title. The word "evangelist" means a "herald of good tidings." The evangelist was the bearer of the good tidings to new fields. He was and is a missionary. See Eph. 4:11; II Tim. 4:5.

9, 10. *Virgins.* Unmarried women. *Prophecy.* The N. T. meaning of this word can not be restricted to the narrow sense of "to predict future events." It means to preach or proclaim.

11. *Girdle.* The sash with which the flowing robes were bound round the waist. *Bound—hands—feet.* A symbolic action plainly revealing Paul's peril at Jerusalem.

12, 13. *These things.* Just spoken by the prophet. *We.* Paul's companions. *Besought.* Inferring perhaps that this was the intention of the prophecy. *I—bound—die.* What an heroic response this is! Paul has made an entire surrender to God's

will and he could brave even death for the name of the Lord Jesus.

THE LESSON APPLIED.

1. *Seeking Disciples.*—We have here a good example in Paul and his company. At Tyre Paul did not sit down and wait until some of the Christians would find him and take care of him. He found the disciples which means that he searched for them. This is what all Christians should do who travel from place to place. Not only find disciples to save a hotel bill, but that with them they may engage in Christian work, encourage believers, take part in prayer meeting, attend Sabbath-school, etc. This will bring Christian believers closer together and make the cause of one the cause of the other. Those whose duty calls them from city to city will do well to follow the example of Paul for in this way they can do much good in the way of encouraging one another and engage in other Christian work.

2. *Paul's Courage.*—As a Roman citizen Paul was a man of courage, but Paul was more than a Roman citizen, he was a Christian soldier and as such he exercised a courage which surprised even the most courageous Roman. Tho he was warned that by going to Jerusalem he was facing death, Paul did not falter. With him it was not a question as to danger but as to duty. He felt that God had called him to go to Jerusalem and he will go in the face of death. The great question for every Christian to decide is, what does God want him to do, and there he ought to go and that he ought to do regardless of danger. Christian people need a little more courage in facing the evils of this perverse and crooked generation.

3. *Women Preaching.*—From this lesson we learn that even in the days of Paul women were engaged in preaching the gospel. Just where these daughters of Philip preached and in what way we do not know, but the New Testament shows that God inspires women as well as men to proclaim the glad tidings of salvation. The New Testament gives women an important place in all church work and surely no ecclesiastical body should now dare deprive her of the privilege which God has given her.

SOME THINGS TO DO.

- 1 Hear and obey the voice of the Spirit.
- 2 Unite with your friends in prayer.
- 3 Do right in the face of all danger.
- 4 Be ready to suffer for Christ's sake.
- 5 Take up your "carriage" for Jerusalem.

IMPROVE THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

If I had a million dollars to bestow today, three fourths should be given to improving and extending the Sunday schools

in America. Our future as a country depends more on them than on our common schools or colleges, necessary as they are. "The Sunday-school is doing a splendid service in adding new interest to the study of the Bible in fitting the rising generation for better service as citizens, and leading them to a fuller comprehension of their duties as members of society. It is a patriotic, a holy work." This is the testimony of one of the leading statesmen of America.—*Wm. Reynolds.*

PLEDGE THE CHILDREN

1. If you would save the next generation for God—Pledge the children.
2. If you would have "a generation that will not tolerate the dram-shop and its kindred vices"—Pledge the children.
3. If you would save one billion and a half to the nation annually—Pledge the children.
4. If you would conquer the greatest foe to human happiness—Pledge the children.
5. If you would rob the gallows, the grave and perdition of their victims—Pledge the children.
6. If you would destroy the greatest barrier to the progress of the gospel—Pledge the children.
7. If you would empty the asylums, almshouses and prisons—Pledge the children.
8. If you would halt forever the fearful procession of sixty thousand men that march annually to hades—Pledge the children.
9. If you want to do a work that will tell in eternity—Pledge the children.

The Mission Field.

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THE MISSIONARY CIRCLE.

This good work is constantly growing and is praised everywhere. At the Kanemorada conference just closed, it was warmly encouraged. In less than a year 100 members have enrolled. The follow-